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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY	USSR	DATE DISTR.	23 Feb 1954
SUBJECT	Mining in the Tovarkovo Coal Mining District	NO. OF PAGES	2
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Tovarkovo coal district is in the Tula area about 35 kms. south of Moscow.

2. The coal is a lignite and occurs in seams from one and one-half to three meters thick and reaches within eight meters of the surface. The calorific value is between three and three and a half calories per kilogram. The dip of the coal seam is between zero and eight degrees. The areal extent of each deposit is limited.

3. The mining methods used until about 1938 were extremely primitive. A shaft was sunk to a depth of about 10 meters and equipped with cage for hoisting one ton coal cars. A lateral was driven on the coal seam to the limit of the mineable coal where a ventilation shaft was raised to the surface. The coal on each side of the main heading was then mined out advancing by a room and pillar method. Loading was by hand and tramming by hand and horses.

4a. About 1938 mechanization was introduced and a systematic method of mining, allegedly designed by Soviet engineers, was introduced at each mine. A central shaft is sunk and main headings driven both ways to the limits of mineable ore. This distance is commonly a maximum of 300 to 400 meters. This main heading is equipped with belt conveyors which carry the coal from crosscuts to the shaft.

b. At 100 meter intervals in the main headings crosscuts are driven both ways at right angles to the main heading and to the limits of mineable coal, a maximum distance of 300 meters. Each third crosscut is also equipped with belt conveyors. Beginning at the limits of the coal, rooms are driven at right angles to and on both sides of the crosscut as far as the next crosscut, ie. 100 meters. The coal is undercut by machines, drilled by air drills and loaded onto shaking conveyors in the rooms which carry it to the crosscut conveyors. All openings are timbered and ventilation is secured by blowers and ventilation shafts.

5. On the surface the coal is screened dry on shaking screens into five sizes. No washing is used. Most of the coal was used for electric power generation.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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6. The total labor force underground was about 400 men at each of 18 mines in 1935. The total number of employees, underground and surface, for the area was about 9000. The total production in each of the years 1935 and 1936 was about 1,500,000 tons. Production was on a three shift, 363 days per year basis, indicating a productivity of about .16 tons per man shift. After mechanization the same number of men obtained about 5,000,000 tons increasing the production per man shift to about .53 tons per man shift. Each man worked six days and laid off the seventh with rest days staggered. Three eight-hour shifts were worked per day and only two holidays per year were observed.

7. The names of the mining companies working in the area, the number of working shafts, and the average daily output of each company circa 1940 are shown in the following table:

Mine	No. Shafts	Average Output per Shift
Tovarko	18	10,000
Shchecin coal ШЕКИН	18	10,000
Balakov coal БАЛАКОВ	12	8,000
Stalenogorsk coal СТАЛИНО	22	12,000
Skolen coal СКОЛИН	9	3,000
		43,000

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8. Before the German invasion, [redacted] given orders to destroy the mines. All underground equipment was wrecked, the intersections of crosscuts and rooms and of crosscuts and main headings were blasted down and surface equipment burned or wrecked. [redacted] no information as to the conditions after World War II.

end

[redacted]

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